A Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) is a traffic control device that combines pedestrian warning signs with user-activated light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The RRFB is used at a crosswalk to alert motorists to the presence of pedestrians and cyclists crossing. The system typically includes the crosswalk, wheelchair ramps, flashing beacon and pedestrian crossing signs, and advance pedestrian crossing warning signs and/or pavement markings. RRFB units are used at crossing locations that are uncontrolled (e.g., not controlled by a yield, stop or traffic signal).

The RRFB units are installed on both ends of the crosswalk and activated with manual push buttons that allow crossing pedestrians to energize the beacons prior to crossing. When activated, the two yellow indications flash in a rapidly alternating “wig-wag” flashing sequence (left indication on, then right indication on). Duration of the flash cycle is programmed to meet the travel time and volume of the crossing pedestrians and cyclists. The pedestrian indication is directed at and visible to pedestrians in the crosswalk, and it flashes concurrently with the vehicle indications to give confirmation that the RRFB is in operation. The RRFB remains dark when not in use.